Upgradation of District Telephone Manager in Manipur

2645. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the District telephone Manager of Manipur has been upgraded;

(b) if so, what are the new upgradation of Telephone Department in the North-East States; and

(c) whether Government have a plan for contemplating the further division of Telephone Department specially for Manipur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The office of Telephone District Managers of Silchar, Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh of North-East States have also been upgraded to the level of General Manager Telecom Districts.

(c) No, Sir.

Satellite Communication for Arunachal Pradesh

2646. SHRI NABAM REBIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal of Satellite communication (SAT-COM) for consideration from the Central Pool has been received from Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the action taken in this direction, and

(c) If not, steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve telecommunication system in such remote border States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yea, Sir.

(b) and (c) As Department of Telecom Services (DTS) has already planned augmentation of its existing Satellite based network in Arunachal Pradesh (AP) which would provide various telecom facilities between District Headquarters and Liasion Offices needed by Government of AP except video conferencing by March, 2001, a separate Sat. Com. Network exclusively for Govt. of AP is not considered necessary.

As an interim measure DTS had suggested some time back provision of Telecom facilities to Govt. of AP through its existing VSAT based network called HVNET. The proposal is still under consideration of the Govt. of AP and the Planning Commission.

Projects for Promotion and Protection of 'Satras' in Assam

2647. DR. (SMT) JOYASHREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any project has been contemplated by Government for protection, preservation and promotion of the "Satras" of Assam under Clause VI of the Assam Accord; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Implementation of Recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission

2648. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a consensus was arrived at between the Union Leaders of the Central Government Employees and the Central Government with regard to deferring the decision on some of the recommendations made by the Fifth Central Pay Commission at the time of implementation of its report;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision with regard to fixing the pension at additional rate of one per cent per year to the employees who have rendered more than 33 years of service; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Staff Side of the National Council (JCM) had submitted a 15-point charter of demands generally pertaining to the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission requiring immediate consideration of the Government. Based on the discussions of these demands,